Release of Foodgrains to Rajasthan under N.R.E.P. and R.L.E.G.P.

1841. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity of foodgrains released under the National Rural Employment Programme and Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme to the State of Rajasthan during the current year so far; and

(b) the quantity to be released to the State during the remaining pe riod of the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY): (a) and (b) A quantity of 9590 MTs of foodgrains under National Rural Employment Programme and 9515 MTs under Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme has been released to Rajasthan so far for the first two quarters of the current year. Equivalent quantities are likely to be released to them for the remaining two quarters.

Special Foodgrains Production Programme in Orissa

1842. KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a special foodgrains production programme has been launched to give a boost to the agricultural production in Orissa; and

(b) if so, the names of the districts selected for this purpose and the main crops proposed to be undertaken under the programme and to what extent foodgrains production is likely to increase?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FERTILIZERS IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI R. PRABHU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Districts of Balasore, Cuttack, Puri Sambalpur and Ganjam have been selected for the implementation of Special Foodgrains Production Programme in Orissa State. The focus is on rice as it is the major foodgrain crop. During 1988-89, a production of 74.41 lakh tonnes of foodgrains in envisaged, against the so far highest production of 70.16 (1983-84) lakh tonnes.

Research Station by Pepsi Joint Venture

1843. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Punjab Agro-Pepsi joint venture is putting up a Research station;

(b) how many persons from the various Government Research Organisation will be on the governing body, to keep a watch on what research is being done; and

(c) what is the annual budgeted expenditure of this Research Station?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Governing Body has not yet been constituted.

(c) Total capital expenditure of Rs. 0.59 crores and operating expenses of Rs. 1,05 crores over a period of 5 years.

Loss to NCCF in Import of Wet Dates

1844. SHRI PUTTAPAGA RADHAKRISHNA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to refer to reply to Unstarred Question 2296 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 8th May, 1987 and state:

(a) the name of the officer responsible for accepting the cheque of Rs. 3.20 lacs from the suppliers instead of Bank Guarantee/Draft;

(b) whether the cheque was forwarded to the Accounts Division in time;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether any action has been taken to recover the amount of Rs. 3.20 lacs